

Customized FORM PTO-1390		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. P07157US00/DEJ	
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371				09/807606 U.S. APPLICATION NO. <i>(known see 37CFR 1.53)</i>	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/SE99/00260		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 24 FEBRUARY 1999		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 21 OCTOBER 1998	
TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VERIFICATION OF IMPOSITIONS FOR . . .					
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US: KARSTEN, Toivo et al.					
Applicant herewith submits to the US Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. <input type="checkbox"/> 2. This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 USC 371. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 USC 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 USC 371(b) and PCT Art. 22 and 39(1). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19 th month from the earliest claimed priority date. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(2)) <input type="checkbox"/> a. is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b. has been transmitted by the International Bureau. <input type="checkbox"/> c. is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). <input type="checkbox"/> 6. A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7. Amendments to the claims of the International Appln. under PCT Article 19 (35 USC 371 (c)(3)) <input type="checkbox"/> a. are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). <input type="checkbox"/> b. have been transmitted by the International Bureau. <input type="checkbox"/> c. have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments had NOT expired. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> d. have not been made and will not be made. <input type="checkbox"/> 8. A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9. An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). <input type="checkbox"/> 10. A translation of the annexes to the Int'l Prelim. Exam. Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). Items 11. to 20. below concern document(s) or information included: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 11. An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12. An Assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13. A First preliminary amendment . <input type="checkbox"/> 14. A Second or Subsequent preliminary amendment . <input type="checkbox"/> 15. A substitute specification . <input type="checkbox"/> 16. A change of power of attorney and/or address letter . <input type="checkbox"/> 17. A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 & 35 USC 1.821-825. <input type="checkbox"/> 18. A second copy of the published international application under 35 USC 154(d)(4). <input type="checkbox"/> 19. A second copy of the English translation of the international application under 35 USC 154(d)(4). <input type="checkbox"/> 20. Other items or information: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> A copy of the Notification of Missing Requirements under 35 U.S.C. 371. <input type="checkbox"/> In the event that a petition for extension of time is required to be submitted herewith, and in the event that a separate petition does not accompany this response, applicant hereby petitions under 37 CFR 1.136(a) for an extension of time of as many months as are required to render this submission timely. Any fee is authorized in 17(c).					
Date: 16 April 2001					

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known) 09/807606		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/SE99/00260		ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. P07157US00/DEJ					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 21. The following fees are submitted:					CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1)-(5):									
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither Int'l Prelim. Exam. fee nor Int'l Search fee paid to USPTO				\$1000					
<input type="checkbox"/> Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO				\$ 860					
<input type="checkbox"/> No Int'l Prelim. Ex. fee paid to USPTO but Int'l Search fee paid to USPTO				\$ 710					
<input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO				\$ 690					
<input type="checkbox"/> Int'l Prelim. Ex. fee paid to USPTO & all claims satisfied PCT Art 33(1)-(4)				\$ 100					
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =					\$ 1000				
<input type="checkbox"/> Surcharge of \$130 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).					<input type="checkbox"/> 20 mos. <input type="checkbox"/> 30 mos. + \$				
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE						
Total Claims	7 - 20 =		X \$18 =	\$					
Independent Claims	1 - 03 =		X \$80 =	\$					
<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Dependent Claim(s) (if applicable)			+ \$270 =	\$					
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =					\$ 1000				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.					\$ 500				
SUBTOTAL =					\$ 500				
<input type="checkbox"/> Processing fee of \$130 for furnishing the English translation later than from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).					<input type="checkbox"/> 20 mos. <input type="checkbox"/> 30 mos. + \$				
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =					\$ 500				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40 per property					\$ 40				
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =					\$ 540				
<i>Amount to be</i>					<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"><i>Refunded</i></td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Charged</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$</td> </tr> </table>	<i>Refunded</i>	\$	<i>Charged</i>	\$
<i>Refunded</i>	\$								
<i>Charged</i>	\$								
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a. A check in the amount of \$540 to cover the above fees is enclosed.									
<input type="checkbox"/> b. Please charge my Deposit Account No. 12-0555 in the amount of \$ to cover the above fees.									
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees required or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-0555.									
Note: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.									
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: DOUGLAS E. JACKSON At the address (below) of CUSTOMER NO. 00881. LARSON & TAYLOR, PLC 1199 NORTH FAIRFAX ST. SUITE 900 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			SIGNATURE: <u><i>Douglas E. Jackson</i></u> NAME: Douglas E. Jackson REG. NO.: 28518 PHONE NO.: 703-739-4900 Date: 16 April 2001						

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent

In re patent application of: KARSTEN et al.

Serial No.: New Application

Examiner:

Filed: On even date herewith

Art Unit:

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ...

Docket No.: P07157US00

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C.

S I R:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

A clean version of all pending claims is provided herewith in **Attachment A**. It will be noted that all old claims have been amended relative to the previously provided version as shown by the marked up version thereof in **Attachment B** provided herewith.

REMARKS

The above amendments to claims have been made in order place the application in better condition for examination and for the purpose of reducing the filing fees.

Further and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 16, 2001

By: Douglas E. Jackson
Douglas E. Jackson
Reg. No. 28518

ATTACHMENT A

Clean Replacement/New Claims (entire set of pending claims)

Following herewith is a clean copy of the entire set of pending claims.

1. (amended) A method for performing an imposition verification on sheets of paper or another material of impositions prepared by means of digital data and comprising several print pages consisting of text and/or images using a printing unit) in the form of a plotter/printer having a magazine for paper or another sheet formed material and means feeding one sheet of paper at the time into the printing unit, whereby a test print sheet is introduced through a feeding/turning unit of the printing unit and is printed on one side of the sheet based on digital information which has been received in a control unit of the printing unit, and the sheet of paper is turned upside down after the first page has been printed and the sheet is printed on the opposite side thereof based on digital information which has been received in the control unit or said printing unit, and a visual or another verification is made to determine that the print pages of the impositions for the two print sides are located exactly as determined and that the impositions of the front and rear sides of the print sheet exactly coincide with each other, and, in case any lack of exactness is observed, corrections are made in the computer unit for preparing text and/or images, whereupon a renewed verification printing is made as mentioned above, characterized in that

- in that the sheet of paper is fed, with the front edge thereof, to a position against a stop edge at the printing unit,

- in that the sheet of paper, from a place spaced rearwardly from said front edge is moved inwards a further little distance by means of secondary feeder rolls, whereby the sheet of paper becomes buckled and the front edge of the paper is straightened up,

- whereupon the feeding of the sheet of paper is stopped, the printing roll and the counter press rolls are rotated slowly so that the front edge of the sheet, which is now straightened up, is pulled forwards and is kept secured by the printing roll and the counter press rolls of the printing unit,

- and the rear (secondary) feeder rolls are released so that the sheet of paper is given the possibility, in case said sheet happens to be positioned obliquely, of being rotated and being straightened out to enter an exactly correct position.

2. (amended) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the verification printing is made with the sheet of paper supported on a rotary printing roll, in that the printing of the first side (the front side) of the sheet of paper is made with the printing roll rotating in a predetermined direction (counter clockwise direction as seen in figure 3), whereupon the sheet of paper is turned and the opposite side (the rear side) of the sheet of paper is printed in that the printing roll is rotated in the same direction as in the said first direction with the sheet of paper turned upside down so that said opposite side (the rear side) of the sheet of paper is facing the printing unit.

3. (amended) A method according to claim 1, characterized

- in that the turning of the sheet of paper is made in that said sheet of paper is kept secured during the printing of the first side of the sheet by the secondary feeder rolls,

- in that the rotation direction of said secondary feeder rolls is reversed,

- and in that the sheet of paper is moved on, the front edge, upon need, is adjusted,

- and the sheet of paper is printed in the same way as the first side thereof was printed.

4. (amended) An apparatus for executing the method according to claim 1, comprising means for preparing impositions in digital form comprising several print pages each containing text and/or images,

a printing unit for printing of sheets of paper,

a magazine for plane sheets of paper,

a feeder unit for feeding sheets of paper from said magazine to a printing unit of a type known per se,

characterized in that the feeder unit is formed as a combined feeder and turning unit for sheets of paper comprising guide plates for the sheet of paper, stop means arranged adjacent a printing roll of the printing unit, secondary feeder rolls in the feeding unit mounted spaced from said stop means and arranged so that they can be rotated in two opposite directions, so that they can be stopped in a locking position for the sheet of paper, and so that they can be opened for releasing of the sheet of paper or parts thereof.

5. (amended) An apparatus according to claim 4, characterized in that the turning unit for sheets of paper comprises means for providing a stop edge for the sheet of paper and for providing

- a) a driving of secondary drive rolls and counter rolls cooperating therewith,
- b) a stopping of said drive rolls with the counter rolls pressed into contact with the drive rolls, and
- c) a releasing of said counter rolls from the secondary drive rolls.

6. (amended) An apparatus according to claim 4, characterized in that the stop edge for the sheet of paper comprises one or more counter press rolls arranged for being pressed into contact with a printing roll of the printing unit and, at still standing printing roll, to form a stop edge for straightening up the sheet of paper.

7. (amended) An apparatus according to claim 4, characterized in that the feeder unit is formed with a sensor for indicating the existence of a sheet of paper while feeding in such paper and turning same.

ATTACHMENT B**Marked Up Replacement Claims**

Following herewith is a marked up copy of each rewritten claim together with all other pending claims.

Following herewith is a marked up copy of each rewritten claim.

1. (amended) A method for performing an imposition verification on sheets (7) of paper or another material of impositions (9) prepared by means of digital data (1,2) and comprising several print pages (8) consisting of text and/or images using a printing unit (3) in the form of a plotter/printer having a magazine (4) for paper or another sheet formed material and means (5) feeding one sheet of paper (7) at the time into the printing unit (3), whereby a test print sheet (7) is introduced through a feeding/turning unit (17) of the printing unit (3) and is printed on one side of the sheet (7) based on digital information (1,2) which has been received in a control unit (10) of the printing unit (3), and the sheet (7) of paper is turned upside down after the first page has been printed and the sheet is printed on the opposite side thereof based on digital information (1,2) which has been received in the control unit or said printing unit (3), and a visual or another verification is made to determine that the print pages (8) of the impositions for the two print sides are located exactly as determined and that the impositions of the front and rear sides of the print sheet exactly coincide with each other, and, in case any lack of exactness is observed, corrections are made in the computer unit (1,2) for preparing text and/or images, whereupon a renewed verification printing is made as mentioned above, characterized in that

- in that the sheet (7) of paper is fed, with the front edge thereof, to a position against a stop edge (26) at the printing unit (3),

- in that the sheet (7) of paper, from a place spaced rearwardly from said front edge is moved inwards a further little distance by means of secondary feeder rolls (22, 23), whereby the sheet (7) of paper becomes buckled and the front edge of the paper is straightened up,

- whereupon the feeding of the sheet (7) of paper is stopped, the printing roll (14) and the counter press rolls (26) are rotated slowly so that the front edge of the sheet (7), which is now straightened up, is pulled forwards and is kept secured by the printing roll (14) and the counter press rolls (26) of the printing unit,

- and the rear (secondary) feeder rolls (22, 23) are released so that the sheet (7) of paper is given the possibility, in case said sheet happens to be positioned obliquely, of being rotated and being straightened out to enter an exactly correct position.

2. (amended) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the verification printing is made with the sheet (7) of paper supported on a rotary printing roll (14), in that the printing of the first side (the front side) of the sheet (7) of paper is made with the printing roll (14) rotating in a predetermined direction (counter clockwise direction as seen in figure 3), whereupon the sheet (7) of paper is turned and the opposite side (the rear side) of the sheet (7) of paper is printed in that the printing roll (14) is rotated in the same direction as in the said first direction with the sheet (7) of paper turned upside down so that said opposite side (the rear side) of the sheet (7) of paper is facing the printing unit (3).

3. (amended) A method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized

- in that the turning of the sheet of paper is made in that said sheet of paper is kept secured during the printing of the first side of the sheet by the secondary feeder rolls (22, 23),

- in that the rotation direction of said secondary feeder rolls (22, 23) is reversed,

- and in that the sheet (7) of paper is moved on, the front edge, upon need, is adjusted,

- and the sheet (7) of paper is printed in the same way as the first side thereof was printed.

4. (amended) An apparatus for executing the method according to any of the preceding claims claim 1, comprising

means (1,2) for preparing impositions in digital form comprising several print pages (8) each containing text and/or images,

a printing unit (3) for printing of sheets (7) of paper,

a magazine (4) for plane sheets (7) of paper,

a feeder unit (17) for feeding sheets (7) of paper from said magazine (4) to a printing unit (3) of a type known per se,

characterized in that the feeder unit (17) is formed as a combined feeder and turning unit (5) for sheets (7) of paper comprising guide plates (1-7a, 1-7b) for the sheet (7) of paper, stop means (26) arranged adjacent a printing roll (14) of the printing unit (3), secondary feeder rolls (22, 23) in the feeding unit (5) mounted spaced from said stop means (26) and arranged so that they can be rotated in two opposite directions, so that they can be stopped in a locking position for the sheet (7) of paper, and so that they can be opened for releasing of the sheet (7) of paper or parts thereof.

5. (amended) An apparatus according to claim 4, characterized in that the turning unit (5) for sheets (7) of paper comprises means (14, 26) for providing a stop edge for the sheet (7) of paper and for providing

a) a driving of secondary drive rolls (22) and counter rolls (23) cooperating therewith,

b) a stopping of said drive rolls (22) with the counter rolls (23) pressed into contact with the drive rolls (22), and

c) a releasing of said counter rolls (23) from the secondary drive rolls (22).

6. (amended) An apparatus according to claim 4 or 5, characterized in that the stop edge for the sheet (7) of paper comprises one or more counter press rolls (26) arranged for being pressed into contact with a printing roll (14) of the printing unit (3) and, at still standing printing roll (14), to form a stop edge for straightening up the sheet (7) of paper.

7. (amended) An apparatus according to ~~any of claims 4-6~~claim 4, characterized in that the feeder unit is formed with a sensor (24) for indicating the existence of a sheet (7) of paper while feeding in such paper and turning same.

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VERIFICATIONOF IMPOSITIONS FOR PRINTING PLATES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to a method and an apparatus intended to be used, in the first place, within the reproduction process area in the graphic industry, and more particularly for enhancing the possibility of preparing printing plates, for instance for offset printing, having correct impositions.

10 In planning the layout of magazines and books etc the pages must be placed in such an imposition that said pages, after folding of the printed page appear in a chronological order. As an assisting means for making the layout correct and the pages to follow each other in correct order a verification of the impositions is made.

15 Preparing "impositions" means that, for instance 8 pages (or 16, 32, 64 pages, etc) are placed in such order on the paper to be printed, which paper is of a predetermined size, that the pages, after the print paper has been folded, follow in a chronological order of page numbers, so that, in an 8 page print sheet, pages 1, 4, 5, 8 appear on the front side of the print sheet, and that pages 2, 3, 6 and 7 appear on the rear side of said print sheet.

20

PRIOR ART

25 In presently used methods for verifying the correctness of impositions it has been possible to check only one side of the print sheet. This is unsatisfactory since the rear side of the print sheet (the supplement side) is missing in the verification print out, and that there is consequently no possibility of checking that the impositions both for the front side and for rear side coincide with each other.

30 In conventional printing processes according to modern methods there are used computers for creating the print pages comprising text and images. A print page is what is seen in a book, a magazine, a catalogue, a newspaper

etc. Digital data for said print pages are passed through several steps, which result in a so-called imposition. An imposition shows the position of each page of a printing sheet, generally comprising 8, 16, 32 or 64 print pages. The position of each side consisting of digital data is determined both considering
5 the printing machine, for instance an offset printing press, an intaglio printing machine, or in some cases a letterpress printing machine by means of which the sheet is to be printed, and also by the method according to which the printed paper is folded after the printing step. Since the printing is made on both sides of the paper there is a need for two impositions. A first imposition
10 contains data for printing of the front side of the print sheet and the second imposition contains data for printing of the rear side of the print sheet.

Previously the impositions used to be made on transparent films which were mounted such as to form a first imposition - for the front side - and a second imposition for the rear side. Said two impositions thereafter were
15 exposed onto a first offset plate for the front side and a second offset plate for the rear side.

It is important that it is possible to verify that the pages of the impositions for the front side and the rear side, respectively, fall within the same area. For verifying that this is true it is possible to place the transparent
20 films over each other and to visually check that said films have a mutual perfect register. Often there are used register marks, like hair crosses, which, at perfect register, have to be placed straight on top of each other, what is interpreted as a proof of perfect register between the impositions of the front side and the rear side, respectively, of the print sheet.

25 The work using films for the impositions is time consuming and expensive and requires several work moment which generally have to be performed in a dark room. Modern technics have made it possible to eliminate the need for film handling, and - instead thereof - to expose digital data directly from a computer onto the printing plate, generally by a laser heat print
30 technics according to a method which is generally referred to a CTP technics

(Computer To Plate), whereby the costs and the work involved in using transparent film handling processes are completely eliminated. By eliminating the need for use of films there have, however, appeared difficulties to verify or prove that the digital data for the impositions of the front side and the rear side, respectively, have obtained a perfect mutual register.

THE INVENTION

The invention is intended to solve the above mentioned problem by providing a quick and simple method of preparing a print sheet containing both a front side and a rear side. This is possible by using a type of printer or plotter which is formed to be able to print on both sides of a paper, generally using a rotary printing roll, over which the paper is moved in two steps, a first step whereby the printing is made on one side (front side) and a second step at which the paper is turned and the printing is made of the rear side of the paper.

Simple printing apparatus, for instance matrix plotters, are known in the art, which apparatus operate on rolls of paper, generally formed with guide bores along the edges of the path of paper. Said known apparatus generally have been formed so that it is possible to print only on one side of the paper.

Since also the printing is generally made on plane sheets of paper there has been a wish that the verification of the impositions for the front and rear sides can be made directly on plane sheets of paper, preferably the same type of paper, cut like the sheet of paper which is to be used in the printing machine. To this end the invention relates to a verification or proof print machine having a cassette in which the print papers are placed, and from which one paper at the time is lifted out and is introduced in the verification print machine, and more particularly in which the printing is made both of the front side and on the rear side of the print paper.

The impositions having a predetermined number of pages, each consisting of text and images, are made up as known in the art in a computer,

and digital information from the computer is transferred to the printing unit in which the impositions are printed with an accurate positioning, controlled by information from the computer. When the printing of the first page, for instance the front side of the print sheet is ended a feeding in and feeding out
5 unit of the printer/plotter takes over the print sheet and turns same and feeds it back into the printing unit. A printing is thereafter made on the rear side of the sheet of paper corresponding to the imposition for the rear side.

When the second (rear) side of the sheet of paper has been printed a double sided print sheet has been simulated. It is now possible to check the
10 positioning of pages on both sides of the print sheet and the positioning of each separate page on the double page.

In this connection it should be mentioned that it is important that the print sheet from the paper cassette is introduced in the printing unit with the front edge of the paper exactly parallel to the axis of the printing unit and with
15 the side edges of the print sheet exactly perpendicular to said axis. It may, however, happen that the print sheet is introduced slightly obliquely into the printing unit. If no correction of the position of the print sheet is made this may have as an effect that the impositions are printed at some angle to the front edge of the paper, and that the impositions thereby do not appear at
20 exact mutual registers. It is therefore important that the sheet of paper is oriented so that the front edge and the rear edge of the paper are always arranged straight against a register edge of the printing apparatus.

For solving said problem the invention also is directed to a method and an apparatus for positioning the sheet of paper with the front edge and the
25 rear edge thereof, respectively, exactly straight against a register edge of the verification printing machine.

A complete method for verifying the correctness of impositions for a front page and a rear page, respectively of a printing sheet is made as follows:
a) digital data comprising text and images are created in a computer,
30 b) whereby a verification machine for printing on both the front side and the

rear side of a print sheet is used,

- c) cut plane sheets to be printed are placed in a cassette, which is connected to the verification print machine,
- d) digital data simulating the imposition for the front side is sent from the
5 computer to the verification print machine,
- e) a sheet to be printed is lifted out of the paper cassette and is fed, with the "front edge" thereof into the verification print machine,
- f) the sheet to be printed is fed to an exact position, or is, upon need, rearranged to take an exact position and is introduced into the verification
10 print machine via a feeding and turning unit,
- g) digital data corresponding to the imposition of the front side are printed on the sheet of paper,
- h) after said printing of the front side the print sheet is turned,
- i) the print sheet is, with precision, fed, with the "rear edge" thereof to the
15 printing machine, eventually after some adjustment of the position like in connection to the printing of the front side,
- j) digital data corresponding the imposition of the rear side are transferred from the computer to the verification print machine,
- k) the rear side of the sheet of paper is printed using digital data.

20 By now studying the impositions on the front side and the rear side of the printed sheet of paper, eventually after said sheet has been folded, it is possible to accurately verify that the impositions of the front side and rear side show a perfect mutual register.

For foreseeing that the sheet of paper comes to engagement with the
25 front edge and the rear edge thereof, respectively, exactly against an engagement edge of the verification print machine, even if said sheets of paper should happen be introduced obliquely, it is made as follows:

- the sheet is fed (at small steps) in the direction towards the engagement edge of the verification print machine (figure 4A),
- 30 - the feeding is made by means of step feeding rolls from a position spaced

from the front edge,

- so that the paper is buckled, which buckling may be greater or less at the left hand edge or at the right hand edge of the paper depending on the oblique positioning of the paper (figure 4B),
- 5 - the printing unit locks the front edge thus correctly positioned, for instance in that the print sheet is introduced a very slight distance into the printing unit (figure 4C),
- the step feeding rolls are released from contact with the sheet of paper, whereby said paper is given a possibility of being turned into a correct
- 10 position, corresponding to the buckling of the paper,
- whereby the paper is pulled into the verification print machine and the paper is printed (figure 4D).

THE DRAWINGS

- 15 Now the invention is to be described more in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which figure 1 is a perspective view of a verification or imposition proof machine according to the invention. Figure 2 diagrammatically discloses the system for performing the method according to the invention. Figure 3 diagrammatically, and in a vertical cross section view,
- 20 shows an apparatus according to the invention, and illustrates the actual method. Figure 4 shows in four different projections, A-D, the method and the apparatus for straightening up an obliquely introduced print paper.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

- 25 As best evident from figure 2 a complete system for preparing a printing plate, using the invention, comprises a computer 1 having a viewing screen and a storing unit 2, a verification printer 3 with a paper sheet magazine 4 and a feeding and turning unit 5 for the sheets in the printer 3, and a unit 6 for finally making films and/or printing plates. The verification print system 3, 4, 5
- 30 provides a unit which is directly connected to the storing unit 2 of the

computer 1, and also the plate making unit 6 is connected to the storing unit 2 of the computer 1.

The computer is formed for providing impositions, as known in the art, having a front side and a rear side thereby providing printing sheets, which impositions, according to the invention, can be verified by being printed onto a test print sheet 7 in the printer 3. Each imposition comprises several pages 8, for instance 4, 8, 16, 32 or 64 pages, each page comprising text and/or images, which pages 8 are positioned in an accurately determined pattern and in accurately determined locations in relation to each other so that the pages 8, after the printing sheet 7 has been folded will be located at exactly desired positions of the printing sheet. It is thereby important that the imposition 9 of the pages for the front side of the printing sheet is located in exact register with the imposition of the pages for the rear side of the printing sheet. It is for the verification thereof that the invention has been developed, even if the invention is useful also for other technical fields, especially within the graphic field.

As best evident from the diagrammatic illustration in figure 3 the printing part of the printer 3, which is known per se, comprises a control unit 10 which is connected at the rear side of the printer 3. At the front side the printer is formed with a carrier 11 for ink cartridges 12, for instance of ink jet type, preferably the four normal colours yellow, magenta, cyan and black for making 4-colour images. The ink cartridge carrier 11 is mounted on a horizontal lineary guide bar 13 on which the entire cartridge unit 12 is displaceable in two opposite directions while printing a sheet 7 of paper which is rotated stepwise past the ink cartridges 12 with the print paper supported on a printing roll 14. The printing of the colour or coulors from the cartridges 12 is controlled by the control unit 10 of the printer.

As soon as the guide unit 10 of the printer observes that data is coming from the computer 1, 2 a central guide unit 15 is activated, which guide unit, in turn, checks that there is paper 7 in the paper magazine or the cassette 4.

In the illustrated case the cassette 4 is mounted at an angle of about 45°. The checking means for paper may be a sensor 16, which is mounted underneath the cassette 4. The cassette is mounted at the entrance of a guiding, feeding and turning unit 17 for a paper, which has been connected to the printer. For

5 providing an feeding-in of the uppermost sheet 7 of paper in the cassette a solenoid 18 pushes the front edge of the cassette upwards so that said uppermost sheet 7 can be seized by suction cups 19 and can be lifted up to the upper side of down holding means 20, whereby a single sheet 7 is separated from the cassette. The solenoid 18 is thereafter de-activated,

10 whereby the remaining sheets 7 of paper in the cassette fall back to the bottom of the cassette.

For feeding the separated sheet 7 into the printing unit feeder rolls 21 are actuated to introduce the sheet of paper into the feeder unit 17, in which the sheet is seized and moved forward by secondary drive rolls 22 and counter

15 rolls 23 in the feeder unit co-operating therewith, so as to feed said sheet forward until a feeder/turning sensor 24 is activated. The feeder rolls 21 of the paper magazine/cassette are stopped, and the solenoid 18 is de-activated, whereby the bottom plate of the cassette falls back to the bottom of the cassette. The feeding and turning sensor 24 observes the presence of the

20 sheet of paper, and the central unit 15 thereby brings the counter roll 23 to become lowered towards the secondary drive roll 22 which starts rotating in the clockwise direction, whereby the sheet 7 of paper is moved on along the lower guide plate 17b until said sheet 7 of paper reaches a second sensor, the media sensor 25, which is arranged to observe the front/rear edge of a sheet

25 of paper and which is mounted at an introduction edge at the printing roll 14, which edge is formed by counter press rolls 26 engaging the printing roll 14, figure 4A. The front edge of the paper is thereby stopped whereas the feeder rolls 22 are stepped forwards, whereby the paper becomes buckled as indicated in figure 3B. The counter press rolls 26, which have so far been still

30 standing in contact with the printing roll 14 now slowly begins to rotate

together with the printing roll, so that the straightened up front edge of the sheet of paper is seized, is pulled in a little distance between the printing roll 14 and the counter press rolls 26 and is blocked by the printing unit, figure 4C. The feeder rolls 22, 23 are opened and the buckled paper is straightened
5 up rearwardly from the front edge of the paper which is parallel to the axis of the printing roll 14, figure 4D. The buckling of the paper eliminates lack of lineary positioning of the front edge of the sheet of paper and foresees that said front edge extends parallellly to the axis of the printing roll 14.

The sheet of paper now is positioned with the front edge thereof
10 exactly parallellly to the axis of the printing roll 14, and the printing is commenced in that the printing roll 14 starts rotating in the counter clockwise direction, as indicated with the arrow in figure 3, whereby the paper is pulled round the printing roll 14. The printing roll 14 now feeds the paper in the counter clockwise direction round said printing roll 14 guided by the guide
15 plates 17 until the media sensor 25 is de-activated in that the rear edge of the sheet of paper reaches as far as to said media sensor 25.

The central control unit 15 counts the number of pulses, and the length of the sheet of paper is calculated by the control unit 10.

The control unit 10 now has full control over the positioning of the
20 paper in the print position. In this position the front edge of the sheet of paper is about 25 mm displaced to the left of the ink cartridges 12. The ink cartridge carrier 11 is now moved transversally to the sheet of paper parallellly to the axis of the printing roll 14. A paper sensor 27, which is mounted on the ink cartridge carrier 11, 12 observes the parallellity of the side edges of the sheet
25 of paper and the width of the paper. Said width of the sheet of paper is calculated by the control unit 10 of the printer 3.

Digital data from the computer 1, 2 corresponding to the imposition 9 of the front side is now printed on one side of the sheet 7. As soon as the media sensor 25 has been de-activated, what happens when the rear edge of the
30 sheet passes the sensor 25 and digital data corresponding to the actual side

are ready printed the central unit 15 instructs the counter rolls 23 to lower into contact with the secondary feeder rolls 22 and said feeder rolls 22 now start rotating in the counter clockwise direction, whereby the paper is pulled down in the part 17a of the turning unit until the rear edge of the paper has reached the turning sensor 24 for turning the sheet of paper. In this position the feeder rolls 22, 34 have held the paper secured thereby preventing same from becoming moved to an oblique position. Thereby the first side of the sheet of paper has been printed.

The printing of the second side (rear side) is started in that the central unit 15 now brings the secondary feeder rolls 22 to rotate in the clockwise direction in co-operation with the counter rolls 23, so that the sheet of paper is introduced against the upper guide plate 17b of the turning unit 17. The introduction is prosecuted so that the sheet of paper comes into contact with the feeding edge (26↔14) and becomes buckled in the same way as described above as concerns the front edge. The rear edge which is now facing upwards passes and activates the media sensor 25 and comes into engagement with the counter rolls 26. Said counter rolls 26 now once again start rotating slowly together with the printing roll 14, and the rear edge of the sheet of paper is introduced and is locked between the printing roll 14 and the counter press rolls 26. The secondary feeder rolls 22, 23 are opened and the paper is straightened up - if actual - so that the rear edge (now facing upwards) of the paper is parallel to the axis of the printing roll 14 and the paper 7 is straightened out. The printing roll 14 with the paper 7 is once again rotated in the counter clockwise direction and the paper is guided in the direction towards the lower guide plate 17a of the turning unit 17 until the media sensor 25 thereof is de-activated in that the end edge (formerly the front edge) of the sheet of paper passes the sensor 25. The central control unit 15 counts the number of pulses and the length of the paper is calculated by the control unit 10 of the printer.

The secondary feeder rolls 22 and counter rolls 23 are released from each other, and the printing roll 14 now is again rotated in the counter clockwise direction, and the paper is moved round said printing roll 14. Now the paper is, with the forwards facing edge located parallelly to the axis of the printing roll 14 and moved to a position underneath the ink cartridges 12.

The cartridge carrier 11 with the ink cartridges 12 mounted thereon move reciprocally on the lineary guide bar 13, parallelly to the axis of the printing roll 14. The paper sensor 27 on the cartridge carrier 11 observes the side edge parallelity of the sheet of paper and the width of the sheet. The size of said width of the paper is calculated by the control unit 10. The sheet now has been turned upside down, and therefore the rear side is located underneath and facing the printing unit 12. Digital data representing the imposition of said rear side now are fed from the computer 1, 2 to the printer 3. As soon as the media sensor 25 is de-activated, what happens when the rear edge of the sheet has passed the sensor 25 and after digital data corresponding to the actual side, the rear side, have been ready printed, the central unit 15 instructs the counter rolls 23 to be lowered into contact with the secondary feeder rolls 22, whereby the sheet of paper is seized. The feeder rolls now are rotated in the counter clockwise direction whereby the sheet of paper is fed downwards into the lower part 17a of the feeding unit 17. The counter rolls 23 are raised from the paper, and the paper slides out of said feeding unit 17 and drops down in a receiver. The sheet of paper now has been printed on both sides, and it is easy to verify that the impositions are correct both at the front side and at the rear side, and that the impositions for the front and rear sides are in correct register with each other. If this should not be the case a correction is made in the computer, and a renewed imposition verification is made as described above.

Even in the invention is described above mainly as concerns verification of impositions on a printing sheet in the graphic industry it is obvious that the invention is useful in other technical fields, especially for introducing flexible

sheets of material in exact positions in a processing machine, whereby there is used a buckling of said flexible sheet for automatically direct the sheet into a correct position in the machine.

5 **REFERENCE NUMERALS**

	1	computer	16	paper sheet sensor
	2	storing unit	17	feeding/turning unit
	3	verification printer	18	solenoid
	4	sheet magazine	19	suction cup
10	5	feeding/turning mechanism	20	down holding means
	6	plate/film processor	21	feeder roll for magazine
	7	printing sheet	22	secondary feeder roll
	8	side	23	counter roll
	9	imposition	24	sensor for turning media
15	10	control unit	25	media sensor front/rear edge
	11	carrier	26	counter press roll
	12	ink cartridge	27	paper sensor (on carrier 11)
	13	bar		
	14	printing roll		
20	15	central control unit		

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CLAIMS

1. A method for performing an imposition verification on sheets (7) of paper or another material of impositions (9) prepared by means of digital data (1, 2) and comprising several print pages (8) consisting of text and/or images using a printing unit (3) in the form of a plotter/printer having a magazine (4) for paper or another sheet formed material and means (5) feeding one sheet of paper (7) at the time into the printing unit (3), whereby a test print sheet (7) is introduced through a feeding/turning unit (17) of the printing unit (3) and is printed on one side of the sheet (7) based on digital information (1, 2) which has been received in a control unit (10) of the printing unit (3), and the sheet (7) of paper is turned upside down after the first page has been printed and the sheet is printed on the opposite side thereof based on digital information (1, 2) which has been received in the control unit or said printing unit (3), and a visual or another verification is made to determine that the print pages (8) of the impositions for the two print sides are located exactly as determined and that the impositions of the front and rear sides of the print sheet exactly coincide with each other, and, in case any lack of exactness is observed, corrections are made in the computer unit (1, 2) for preparing text and/or images, whereupon a renewed verification printing is made as mentioned above, characterized in that
- in that the sheet (7) of paper is fed, with the front edge thereof, to a position against a stop edge (26) at the printing unit (3),
 - in that the sheet (7) of paper, from a place spaced rearwardly from said front edge is moved inwards a further little distance by means of secondary feeder rolls (22, 23), whereby the sheet (7) of paper becomes buckled and the front edge of the paper is straightened up,
 - whereupon the feeding of the sheet (7) of paper is stopped, the printing roll (14) and the counter press rolls (26) are rotated slowly so that the front edge of the sheet (7), which is now straightened up, is pulled forwards

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and is kept secured by the printing roll (14) and the counter press rolls (26) of the printing unit,

- and the rear (secondary) feeder rolls (22, 23) are released so that the sheet (7) of paper is given the possibility, in case said sheet happens to be positioned obliquely, of being rotated and being straightened out to enter an exactly correct position.

2. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the verification printing is made with the sheet (7) of paper supported on a rotary printing roll (14), in that the printing of the first side (the front side) of the sheet (7) of paper is made with the printing roll (14) rotating in a predetermined direction (counter clockwise direction as seen in figure 3), whereupon the sheet (7) of paper is turned and the opposite side (the rear side) of the sheet (7) of paper is printed in that the printing roll (14) is rotated in the same direction as in the said first direction with the sheet (7) of paper turned upside down so that said opposite side (the rear side) of the sheet (7) of paper is facing the printing unit (3).

3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized
- in that the turning of the sheet of paper is made in that said sheet of paper is kept secured during the printing of the first side of the sheet by the secondary feeder rolls (22, 23),
 - in that the rotation direction of said secondary feeder rolls (22, 23) is reversed,
 - and in that the sheet (7) of paper is moved on, the front edge, upon need, is adjusted
 - and the sheet (7) of paper is printed in the same way as the first side thereof was printed.

4. An apparatus for executing the method according to any of the preceding claims, comprising

means (1, 2) for preparing impositions in digital form comprising several print pages (8) each containing text and/or images,

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a printing unit (3) for printing of sheets (7) of paper,
a magazine (4) for plane sheets (7) of paper,
a feeder unit (17) for feeding sheets (7) of paper from said magazine (4)
to a printing unit (3) of a type known per se,

5 characterized in that the feeder unit (17) is formed as a combined feeder
and turning unit (5) for sheets (7) of paper comprising guide plates (17a, 17b)
for the sheet (7) of paper, stop means (26) arranged adjacent a printing roll
(14) of the printing unit (3), secondary feeder rolls (22, 23) in the feeding unit
(5) mounted spaced from said stop means (26) and arranged so that they can
10 be rotated in two opposite directions, so that they can be stopped in a locking
position for the sheet (7) of paper, and so that they can be opened for
releasing of the sheet (7) of paper or parts thereof.

5. An apparatus according to claim 4, characterized in that the turning
unit (5) for sheets (7) of paper comprises means (14, 26) for providing a stop
15 edge for the sheet (7) of paper and for providing

a) a driving of secondary drive rolls (22) and counter rolls (23) co-
operating therewith,

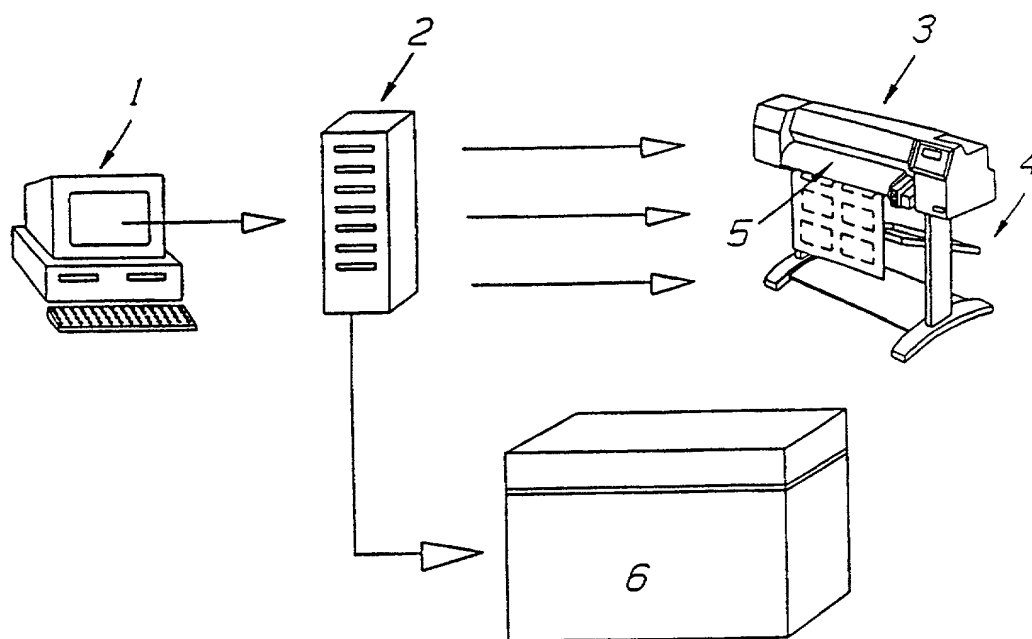
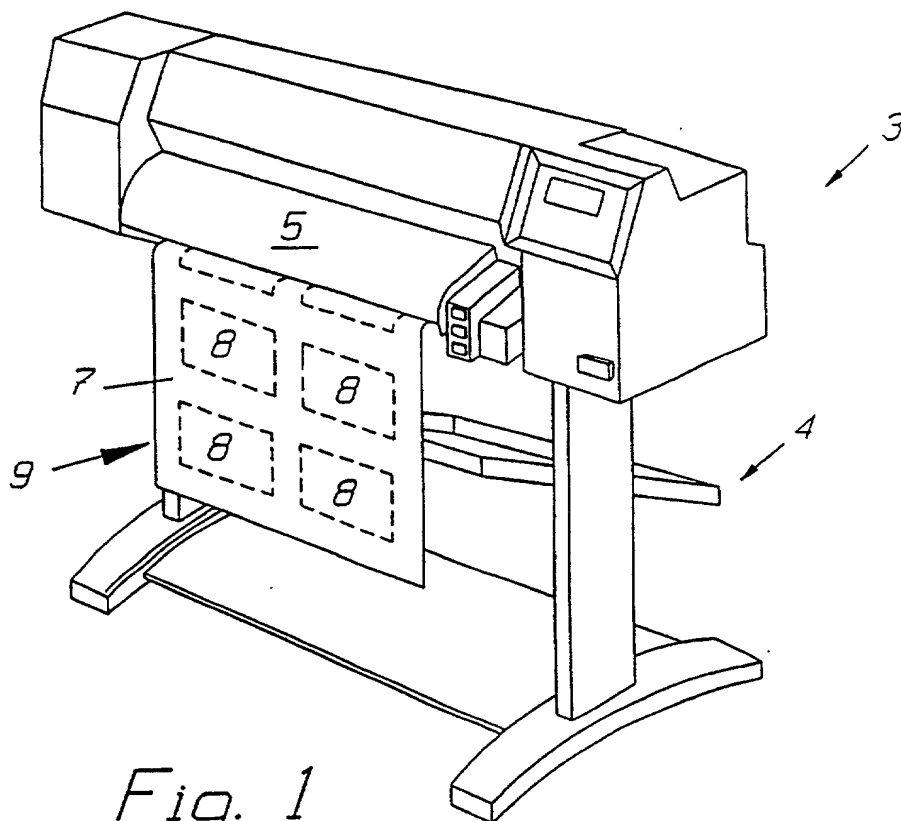
b) a stopping of said drive rolls (22) with the counter rolls (23) pressed
into contact with the drive rolls (22), and

20 c) a releasing of said counter rolls (23) from the secondary drive
rolls (22).

6. An apparatus according to claim 4 or 5, characterized in that the
stop edge for the sheet (7) of paper comprises one or more counter press rolls
(26) arranged for being pressed into contact with a printing roll (14) of the
25 printing unit (3) and, at still standing printing roll (14), to form a stop edge for
straightening up the sheet (7) of paper.

7. An apparatus according to any of claims 4 - 6, characterized in that
the feeder unit is formed with a sensor (24) for indicating the existence of a
sheet (7) of paper while feeding in such paper and turning same.

1/3



2/3

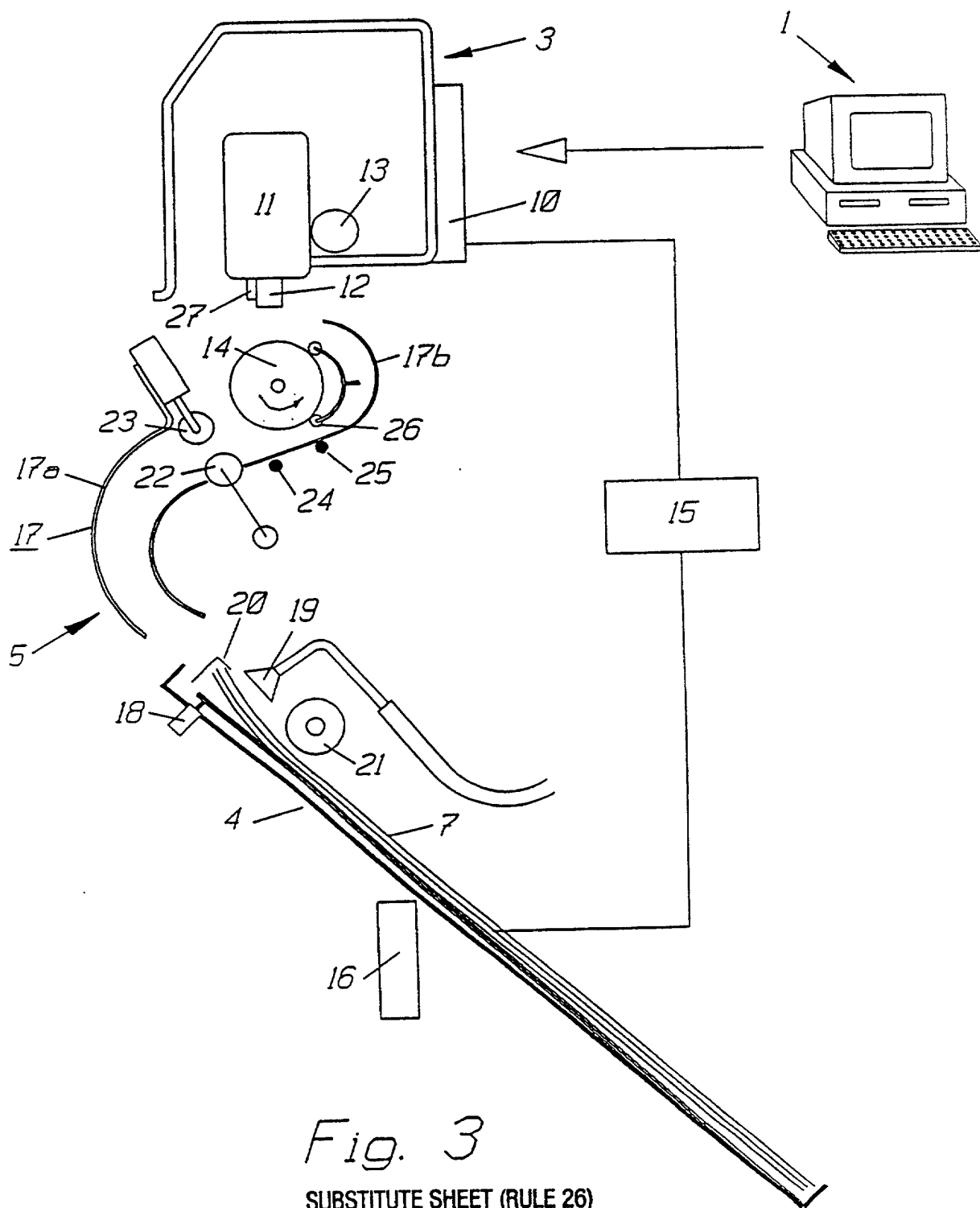


Fig. 3

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

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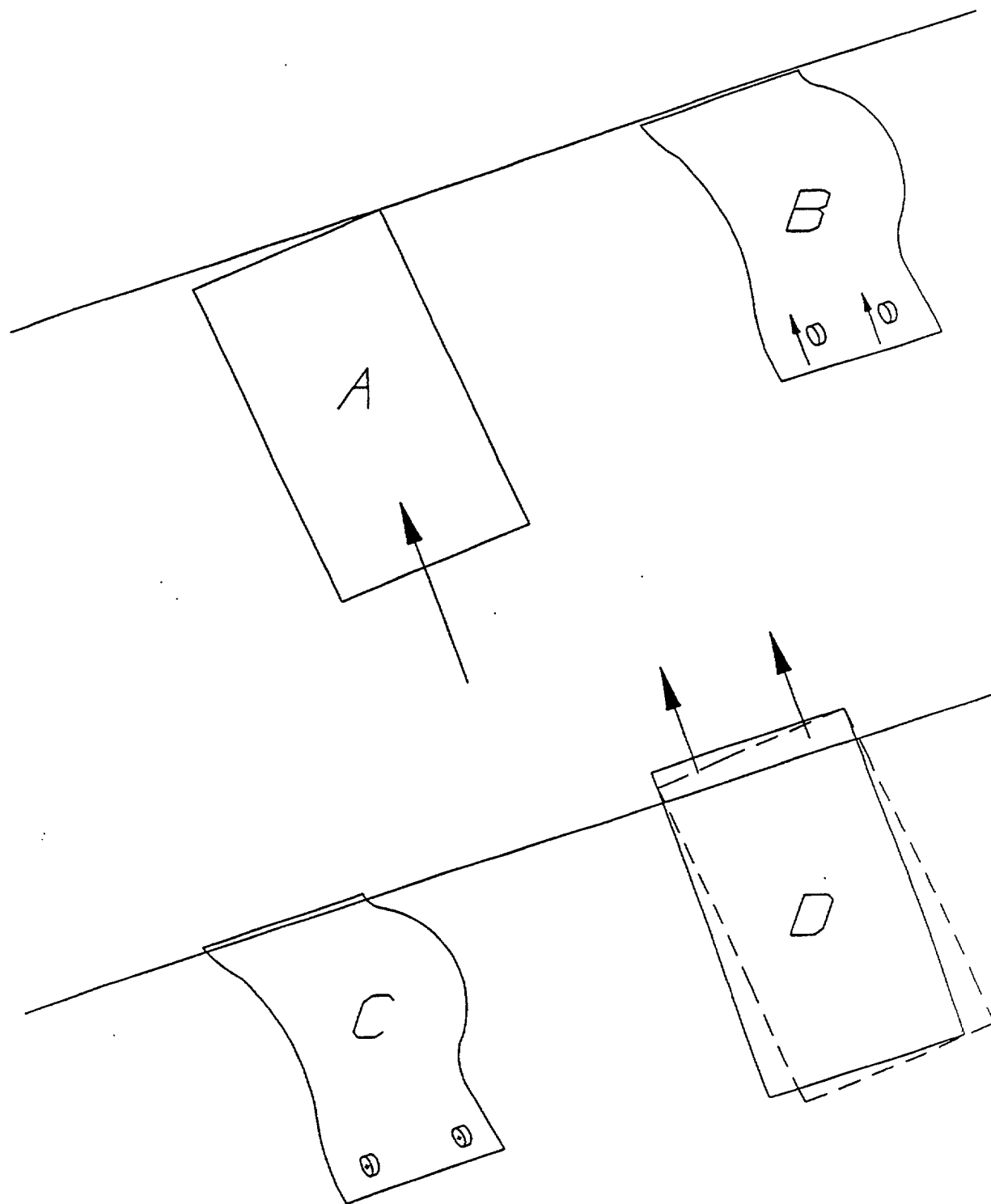


Fig. 4
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

DECLARATION FOR USA PATENT APPLICATION

(including Design and National Stage PCT)

Attorney's Docket ID:

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below adjacent to my name. I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention

entitled: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VERIFICATION OF IMPOSITIONS FOR PRINTING PLATES
the specification of which:
is attached hereto

(or)

(X) was filed on 24 February 1999 as PCT International Application No. PCT/SE99/00260,
nationalized on

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, where priority is not claimed, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or any PCT International application, having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed. (ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS IDENTIFIED ON ATTACHED SHEET)

Prior Foreign Application No.
9803600-7

Country
SE

21 October 1998

Priority Not Claimed

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of any U.S. application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT application designating the U.S., listed below; and insofar as the subject matter of each claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior U.S. or PCT application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT filing date of this application. (ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS IDENTIFIED ON ATTACHED SHEET.)

U.S. or PCT Parent Application No.

Parent Filing Date (Day/Month/Year)

Parent Patent No. (if applicable)

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the registered practitioners of LARSON & TAYLOR, PLC associated with Customer Number 000881 to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. Direct all correspondence to that Customer Number.

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1000 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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